

Dispatch

AIRLIFT

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Tiger Team tackles CAFB deployments

By Tech. Sgt Dan Murphy
437 AW Public Affairs

The wing conference room was filled with more than 50 personnel as a tiger team formed to take a look at the deployment process after recent revisions to the Designed Operational Capability Statement for Charleston AFB.

Col. Rusty Findley, 437th Airlift Wing commander, appointed Lt. Col. Kermit Getz, 437 AW chief of plans, to head up the team.

"We're going to take a fresh look at the entire deployment process," said Getz. "The DOC statement has been revised to reflect what we will likely be tasked to do in the Air Expeditionary Group concept."

CAFB can be tasked to provide a 6-12 ship C-17 Globemaster III unit to deploy anywhere in the world.

"We may be sent to a bare base, limited base or a main operating base," said Getz.

The team will focus mainly on three areas to ensure the wing is ready.

"We will gear up with three areas: awareness, training and fixing processes along the way," said Getz.

There needs to be a new awareness by those on the base of the probability that we will be tasked to mobilize, continued Getz. We'll streamline and automate anywhere we can, and rewrite the base deployment plan.

The mission support squadron, a big player in the deployment process, has been working to ensure everything goes smoothly from their end.

"We've been working with wing plans, manpower and unit deployment managers so everyone is clear how the tasking process works," said Capt. Robin McKinley, 437 Mission Support Squadron Military Personnel Flight commander. "We sat down to clarify how various deployment systems will be used so everyone knows the process."

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Serving it up

Photo by Staff Sgt. Pamela Smith

Airman 1st Class Latasha Capleton, a food specialist with the 437th Services Squadron assigned to the flight kitchen, prepares salads to be served with boxed lunches on an outgoing flight. For more on 437 SVS Flight Kitchen personnel, see page 11.

Benefits available for military parents willing to adopt

By Capt. Tracy Velino
437 AW Public Affairs

The nation celebrates adoption this month as a positive way to build a family, and public laws exist to help make adoption an affordable option for active-duty military members.

November has been recognized as National Adoption Month since 1993 to focus attention on the increasing numbers of children in the child welfare system waiting to be adopted, according to the National Adoption Information Clearinghouse Web site.

Of the approximately 560,000 children currently in foster care in the United States, an estimated 122,000 are waiting for permanent families. The NAIC release said many have special needs, and all of them need security and stability of a permanent family to develop to their full potential.

"For many of these children, often shuttled from one living situation to another, adoption opens the door to loving parents and permanent homes, where they can put down roots and learn what it means to be part of a safe, stable family," said President Clinton in a Nov. 7 presidential proclamation. "Adoption gives children who have been orphaned, abandoned or abused a precious second chance at happiness; a chance to love and be loved and to reach their full potential in a secure, supportive environment."

Last year, 46,000 foster children were adopted, according to the proclamation. Nevertheless, "Nearly 20,000 18-year-olds still leave foster care each year without the emotional, social and financial support that adoptive families provide."

The history of formalized, time-specific national adoption awareness campaigns started in 1976, according to the North American Council

on Adoptable Children, when President Ford proclaimed the first adoption week.

Clinton's proclamation calls on all Americans to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities to honor adoptive families and to participate in efforts to find permanent, loving homes for waiting children.

The Nov. 17 issue of the *Airlift Dispatch* honored adoption month with a feature of a Team Charleston couple raising eight adopted children. Most were adopted from foreign countries, and many are special needs children.

Chaplain (Capt.) Phil Guin, 437th Airlift Wing senior protestant chaplain, and his wife, Sandy, have benefited from several public laws aimed at making adoption more affordable for active-duty military members.

In 1991, a Department of Defense adoption reimbursement program was established. Up to

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